



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Tuesday, December 13, 2005 3 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: Monday, December 12, 2005 5 p.m.
Nature of Event: Undercover Operation Nets Scott, Bail Set at \$1 Million
Location of Call: Roseville
Released by: Lt. George Malim (530) 889-7862

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:



Ronald Edwin Scott, who ran the Atwood Legal Center in Auburn and was out on bail for offering fraudulent legal advice, was arrested again Monday for re-committing the same crime. He was charged with two felony counts of conspiracy and his bail was set at \$1 million.

Placer County Sheriff's deputies took Scott, 60, into custody outside a Roseville restaurant Monday evening after he accepted \$1,500 for providing legal advice and soliciting clients for an attorney, a practice known as "running and capping." Scott is a private investigator and is not an attorney. The client was actually an undercover law enforcement operative who was wearing a wire and who told Scott he needed legal help with a recent drunk driving arrest.

Scott was originally arrested November 10 on four counts of conspiracy and 19 counts of grand theft. At that time, his bail was set at \$1 million and later reduced to \$25,000. Since yesterday's crime was committed while Scott was out on bail, he faces an additional felony count.

During the initial investigation of Scott and his co-conspirator, Sacramento attorney Lawrence Samelson, it was discovered that Scott offered what his victims believed was legal advice from an attorney. Scott would then hire an attorney at a low rate to make court appearances and he pocketed the rest of the retainers. Investigators estimate that victims paid Scott more than \$250,000. Samelson has since pleaded guilty to three felony counts of conspiracy.

Scott is scheduled to appear in the Placer County Jail courtroom Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The investigation is continuing and anyone who may have been victimized by Scott or his associates is asked to contact Sheriff's Detective Jim Hudson at (530) 889-7855. Additional arrests are expected.

This press release is available on the Placer County Sheriff's website at [Http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff](http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff)